

As a long-haul truck driver, it is imperative that I be able to access current weather and traffic conditions at all times wherever I am. Until the advent of satellite radio, I and my fellow drivers were forced to scan the am and fm spectrum constantly as we moved from broadcast area to broadcast area, hoping to catch news and weather information critical to our timely and safe delivery of freight. No one was ever sure where on the dial one could get a clear broadcast of needed info. Oftimes, such broadcasts are limited to five minutes an hour-at non-standard times, therefore making it impossible for a mobile workforce to access with any regularity. Stock in-dash radios often do not receive clearly over the sound of a large diesel engine and, being constantly moving, a driver often cannot receive a needed area broadcast before s/he passes the decision point as to routing or timing. Paid satellite radio service currently provides this crucial local information to drivers-indeed, truckers are the largest subscriber group for satellite radio service, as we realize the cost efficiency and safety aspects of having such local information available on a nationwide basis.

In order to continue and expand the availability of a service crucial to a vital portion of the American economy, I respectfully request the FCC reject Petition 04-160, brought before it by the National Association of Broadcasters and that the FCC attempt to facilitate the use of needed repeater systems and access to local news and weather information in whatever manner it may be able to do so. The ability of "America's Trucking Army" to remain current and aware of traffic, weather and security alerts more than offsets any possible perceived damage to local-listener-targeted radio stations: we are not 'local'...we're just passing thru. But we need this information to better serve the American economy.